

## Who can administer

May be administered by registered competent doctor or nurse/midwife

## Important information

- Consultation with Microbiology/Infectious diseases recommended <sup>(ref 1)</sup>
- Unlicensed preparation
- Stock is **kept in ED** (Zone A Clinic Room, Press 2, Tray 1 - under RESTRICTED ANTIMICROBIALS)
- In severe malaria it is important to avoid delay and to start treatment with either IV quinine or IV artesunate as soon as possible (within one hour of assessment) <sup>(ref 1)</sup>

## Available preparations

Artesun 60mg vial

## Reconstitution

- Add **1ml** Sodium Bicarbonate 5% diluent (provided in box) to the powder for injection
- Shake the vial for several minutes until the solution becomes clear - **if the solution is cloudy, or a precipitate is present, it should be discarded** - this reconstituted solution must be used **within one hour of preparation**
- For **intravenous use** following reconstitution, further dilute with 5ml of Sodium chloride 0.9% (provided in box) and mix well, ensuring that the **resulting solution is still clear**
- The resulting solution contains artesunate 10mg per ml (60mg in 6ml)

## Methods of intravenous administration

### Slow intravenous injection **ONLY**

- Give required dose over 1 to 2 minutes

## Dose in adults

### For patients with clinically severe malaria

- Give 2.4mg/kg IV at 0, 12, 24 hours, then every 24 hours until oral treatment can be substituted e.g. 168mg in a 70kg patient
- Give intravenous artesunate for a minimum of 24 hours (three doses), then switch to oral therapy (provided the patient is able to swallow and absorb medication) as per GUH guidelines <sup>(ref 1)</sup>
- Dose adjustment is not required in renal or hepatic impairment

## Monitoring

- Monitor blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate, signs of hypersensitivity and haemoglobin levels <sup>(ref 2)</sup>
- Monitor patients for 4 weeks after treatment for evidence of haemolytic anaemia <sup>(ref 2)</sup>

## Further information

### Intramuscular injection

- May also be given via this route (See SPC in box)- contact Microbiology/Infectious Disease Consultant and Pharmacy for directions

## Storage

Store below 25<sup>0</sup>C

## References

Artesun SPC August 2022

1. [GUH Antimicrobial Prescribing Guidelines](#)
2. Injectable medicines guide, downloaded 7th May 2025

Also available: [Guidelines for the Treatment of Malaria](#) : World Health Organisation. Nov 2024

## Therapeutic classification

Anti-malarial

**BNF**

[Malaria](#)